(c) the steps taken by the Government to end the menace of spurious goods and the results achieved in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to improve the quality of household electrical appliances, the Household Electrical Appliances (Quality Control) Order, 1981 was issued on 12-11-1981 in exercise of the powers under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, prohibiting the manuafcture and sale of household electrical appliances which do not conform to standards specified for them. This order covered a total of 40 item including switches, plugs and sockets. Subsequently, in order to make quality control for household electrical appliances more effective, compulsory ISI marking has been introduced for 7 items including switches, plugs and sockets, vide the Electrical Appliances (Quality Control) Order, 1987 issued on 8th April, 1987.

Request for Amending of the Companies Act

1532. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations or requests from the trade to amend the Companies Act and make it more realistic with regard to the technical provisions which attract criminal proceedings for non-compliance of statutory forms, reports etc.; if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto;

(b) if not, whether Government are considering to amend the Companies Act with a view to aviod undue hardship to the management due to the reasons of technical nature; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that due to the criminal provisions in the Companies Act the growth of production suffers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As per Clause 58 of the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1987 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 31st August, 1987, it is proposed to provide for compounding of certain offences under the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) No, Sir.

Reasons for Long Waiting List for Cooking Gas Facility in the Western Zone

1533. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last one year no new appointment of cooking gas dealer has been made in the western zone; if so, what are the reasons therefor; if not, when the last appoitment of a cooking gas dealer was made in the Western zone;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a sufficient quantity of cooking gas as well as sufficient number of cooking gas cylinders and adequate bottling capacity are available in the country; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for which over 1,00,000 applications are pending in the waiting list for cooking gas connection in the Western zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir. The Oil Companies have been appointing new distributorships during the last one year in the Western zone also. The last LPG distributorship in the Western